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Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

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Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

I. Introduction

1. A report was received from the Russian Federation pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 53/97 of 8 December 1998. The text of the report is contained in section II below.

II. Report received from States pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 53/97

2. The **Russian Federation** submitted a report, dated 14 September 2000, referring to violations involving the embassies and/or consulates of the Russian Federation in Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Lebanon, Poland and the United States of America. The report reads as follows:

Denmark

On 31 January 2000, the premises of the consular section of the Russian Embassy in Copenhagen were attacked. An unknown person threw two bottles filled with a flammable liquid through a window of the consular section's reception area. One of the diplomats was injured in the fire that broke out and the premises of the consular section and property of the embassy sustained serious material damage.

The incident was exceptionally dangerous and bore all the hallmarks of a terrorist act. Only through the courage and vigilance of the embassy staff were more serious consequences avoided.

The assailant, who was detained by embassy officials, later stated that he had made the attempt to commit arson "in response to the Russian Federation's actions in Chechnya". He was seeking asylum in Denmark on the grounds that "two attempts" on his life had been made in the Russian Federation.

On 27 May 2000, three unknown persons broke the windows, damaged the doors and smashed the mirrors of two Russian cars with diplomatic plates parked in a car park by the Russian embassy building in Denmark.

00-65387 (E) 260900 111000

Finland

On 28 May 2000, a group of Finnish citizens demonstrating under the slogan "Hands off Chechnya" penetrated the compound of the consulate general in Turku and attempted to tear down the Russian flag. The hooligans were removed from the compound with the help of the police. No material damage was caused.

Georgia

The Russian embassy in Tbilisi is operating in difficult conditions.

Since 1997, anti-Russian demonstrations and rallies have been held systematically in front of the embassy. In 1999, the Georgian Green Party repeatedly threatened in the local media "to throw radioactive waste into the embassy compound".

In the summer of 1999, the Ambassador's security aide was attacked. In addition, the apartments of several embassy officials have been burgled.

The situation of the embassy and its staff became more difficult after refugees and Chechen fighters began to arrive in Georgia in connection with the anti-terrorist operations in Chechnya.

The measures taken by the Georgian authorities to enhance the security of the embassy have so far been inadequate.

Germany

On 31 December 1999, at 11.15 p.m., a group of about 25 to 30 persons in an inebriated state penetrated the grounds of the Russian embassy in Berlin from Unter den Linden Strasse, breaking the lock of the entrance gate. Two officers of the Berlin Police's Central Department for the External Protection of Buildings who were on duty nearby failed to intervene in the situation and, moreover, left the scene of the incident, having been called away "out of concern for their personal safety". As a result, the embassy remained without any police protection for a prolonged period. It was through sheer good luck that none of the embassy officials was injured. The embassy building, however, was damaged. In addition to the broken lock, the expensive embassy plaque was damaged and the facade was soiled.

A protest was lodged with the German authorities in connection with the incident.

On 6 November 1999, a rock was thrown at a building belonging to the Russian embassy in Berlin, resulting in material damage, and it was only by chance that a small child present in the embassy building was not hurt. A representation was made to the German authorities concerning the incident.

Lebanon

On 3 January 2000, a terrorist act was committed against the Russian embassy in Beirut, which came under grenade and small arms fire. According to the available data, the Palestinian group Osbat al-Ansar was behind the act.

The embassy immediately made contact with the Lebanese law-enforcement agencies and special services so that measures could be taken to enhance the protection of the embassy and other overseas establishments of the Russian Federation.

On 3 January, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation issued a brief press release on the incident.

That same day, Lebanon's chargé d'affaires in Moscow was invited to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was told of the concern at the barbarous act and a strong request was made that the Lebanese authorities should take measures to guarantee the security of Russian citizens and establishments in Lebanon.

On 4 January, a telephone conversation took place between Igor Ivanov and the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lebanon, Sélim El-Hoss. On instructions from Vladimir Putin, Mr. Ivanov expressed confidence that the Lebanese leadership would do everything to protect the lives of Russian citizens and ensure the inviolability of Russian establishments in Beirut.

On 4 January, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a second press release, giving due credit to the Lebanese authorities for their decisive actions.

On 4 January, Mr. El-Hoss telephoned the Russian embassy in Beirut and condemned the terrorist act.

On 5 January, the President of Lebanon, Émile Lahoud, in a telephone conversation with the Russian Federation's chargé d'affaires, condemned "the cowardly act against the Russian embassy" and

expressed readiness to lend the necessary assistance in the area of security.

At present, heightened security remains in place at the embassy, since from time to time there are indications of the possibility of new terrorist acts.

Poland

On 23 February 2000, during a regular demonstration by anti-Russian extremist elements, the Russian Federation's consulate general in Poznań was attacked. In the course of the incident, the inviolability of the Russian consulate general was breached, the Russian State flag was defiled, the building of the consulate general suffered material damage and the lives of its officials were threatened.

Unknown persons have repeatedly threatened to perpetrate terrorist acts against the Russian embassy in Warsaw and the secondary school attached to the embassy.

The anti-Russian demonstrations outside the embassy building, which are organized by Polish pro-Chechen organizations, continue, accompanied by acts of hooliganism.

United States of America

In the spring of 1999, during the military action against Yugoslavia conducted by the countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the office of the Russian consulate general in Seattle was attacked and its windows broken.

From time to time there are renewed threats against the staff of the Russian consulate general in New York. Thus, on 24 December 1999, unknown persons threw leaflets into the compound of the consulate general calling for the extermination of Russians both in the territory of the Russian Federation itself and beyond its borders in response to the anti-terrorist operation under way in Chechnya. The leaflets contained abuse against the Russian leadership and threats of violence against overseas establishments of the Russian Federation located in the United States and their staff.